

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate, *inter alia*, the limitation of Claim 6. Claim 6 is canceled. No new matter has been added herewith. The following addresses the substance of the Office Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected all of the claims as being unpatentable based on various combinations of references.

Rejections based on Taylor and Yui

Rejections (a) through (d) below were based on the combination of Taylor and Yui with or without an additional reference:

(a) Claims 1, 5, 6, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor (US 4,013,566) in view of Yui et al.(US 4,873,282).

(b) Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor in view of Yui and Kawaguchi (US 6,673,436).

(c) Claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor in view of Yui and Kawaguchi (JP2001-354780).

(d) Claims 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor in view of Yui and Nikaido (US 5,300,858).

With regard to the above rejections (a)-(d), the Examiner stated that the term "carbon black" taught by Taylor reads on both "acetylene black" and "ketjen black", as taught by Yui et al. The terms "acetylene black" and "ketjen black" have been deleted from Claim 1. Thus, rejections (a)-(d) are no longer applicable to the presently pending claims.

Rejections based on Taylor and Ito

Rejections (e) through (h) below were based on the combination of Taylor and Ito with or without an additional reference:

(e) Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor in view of Ito et al. (US 4,448,949).

(f) Claims 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor in view of Ito and Nikaido.

(g) Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor in view of Ito and Kawaguchi (US 6,673,436).

(h) Claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor in view of Ito and Kawaguchi (JP2001-354780).

With regard to the above rejections (e)-(h), the Examiner pointed out that Ito discloses a composition comprising a hydrazide compound and a resin (adipic and isophthalic dihydrazide as curing agents for forming an epoxy-based article). The purpose of using the hydrazide compound in Ito is to cure the epoxy resin which is irrelevant to the claimed invention. Rejections (e)-(h) are overcome by incorporating the limitation of Claim 6, which does not include "epoxy resins," into Claim 1, i.e., introducing the limitation "the resin component is at least one polymer material selected from the group consisting of fluororesins, polyolefin resins, polyacrylic resins, polyacrylonitrile resins, polyamide resins and polyester resins". While effective in curing epoxy resins, the hydrazide compound disclosed in Ito would have no effect as a curing agent in the resins recited in Claim 1. Thus there would have been no reason at all for one of skill in the art to use the hydrazide compound in the recited resins. Even under the recently promulgated standard for *prima facie* obviousness established by the Supreme Court's *KSR* decision, there must be at least some reason to combine references in order to support a *prima facie* showing of obviousness. Accordingly, there can be no *prima facie* showing of obviousness based on the cited combinations of references.

Rejections based on Taylor and Harashina

Rejections (i) through (l) below were based on the combination of Taylor and Harashina with or without an additional reference:

(i) Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor in view of Harashina (US 6,753,363).

(j) Claims 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable Taylor in view of Harashina and Nikaido (US 4,013,566).

(k) Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor in view of Harashina and Kawaguchi et al (US 6,673,436).

(l) Claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor in view of Harashina and Kawaguchi (JP2001-354780).

Harashina discloses a polyacetal resin composition comprising a polyacrylic acid hydrazide as a flame-retardant agent. Harashina discloses that the hydrazide compound improves the flame-retardancy of the polyacetal resin (column 26, lines 23-28). Since "polyacetal resin"

does not read on the “fluororesins, polyolefin resins, polyacrylic resins, polyacrylonitrile resins, polyamide resins and polyester resins” recited in the presently pending claims, there would have been no reason for one of skill in the art to incorporate a hydrazide compound into the presently claimed composition. Without any such reason, the above rejections (i)-(l) also fail to support a *prima facie* showing of obviousness under the standard established by *KSR*.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request removal of all the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, the Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that the Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

CONCLUSION

In view of Applicants’ amendments to the Claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

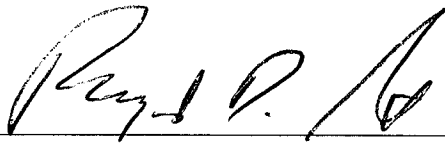
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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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By: 

Raymond D. Smith
Registration No. 55,634
Agent of Record
Customer No. 20995
(949) 760-0404

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050208